

Clark, Barber & Co. by R. J. Prior, another general dealer at Woodville. His stock was small, so was his trade, and he cannot owe very much.—The grocery store of R. Melvin, at Gravenhurst, is closed, it is said, through business difficulties.—Wm. Elam, a London milliner, is reported to have absconded. A bailiff is in possession of his effects, which will just about meet the landlord's claim for rent.

—Paine & Co., of Petrolia, whose troubles were referred to last week, have assigned. So has Jacob Rose, a cartage agent in this city. He had been endorsing for friends.

A WEEK OR SO ago we referred to the business difficulties of J. McKinnon, a Beaverton druggist. These have now culminated in an assignment, and the stock has been offered for sale. In Guelph, S. Brooking, a tailor, has also assigned. The means with which he started were raised by chattel mortgage, and this unpleasant document has been hanging over his head ever since.—P. D. Carse, in the gent's furnishings trade at Hamilton, has failed owing about \$7,200, to meet which he shows assets of \$6,000. In the same city J. M. Halloran, dealer in carriage materials, finds it necessary to give up his estate, which shows a nominal surplus of \$1,100.—A. J. Robinson, who bought out the York Planing Mill Co. at Little York a little more than a year ago, is in trouble. His means were very limited and the property is covered by chattel mortgages. He will owe considerable.

In their Patras circular of 16th ultimo Messrs. Cremida & Bretthaus report a weak market for currants, notwithstanding the stock of unsold fruit in Greece amounts to but 600 tons, of which 500 tons are in course of shipment for Marseilles. The year's crop promises to be plentiful, but comment as to quantity and quality is reserved for a later

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date, or when cutting has become general. The late hot winds caused less damage than had been expected, scarcely amounting to five per cent. The quantity of currants shipped to America and Canada during the crop year 1887,88, was 14,378 tons, against 13,705 tons in 1886,87.

THE COTTON MILLS.

Nearly all the leading mills were represented at the association's annual meeting held in Montreal last week. It was decided that the price of grey and colored goods should remain unchanged, while the question of skirtings is still undecided. The Gibson mill has consented to enter the association, which with the exception of the Chambly Co. is now complete. It is thought that by the end of ten days, for which time the meeting stands adjourned, notice of this mill's willingness to join will have been received. The president referred to the changed aspect of the dry goods trade towards the association within the last two years. A feeling of antagonism has been replaced by

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one of a very opposite nature. It was found that the trade in cotton with China had proved satisfactory, and it was agreed to continue the export of goods to that country. During the year a much larger variety of goods had been made by the mills, a change which it is said has had the effect of checking the importation of foreign goods. The composition of the board remains the same.

—A lady writer in the *Halifax Echo* has been interviewing the shop girls of that city, and finds them all contented with their position, fairly well paid and not overworked. They say that although they might get a higher rate of wages in Boston, they could not live as well, owing to dearer board, clothing, &c.

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